

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-21 remain pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 13 and 15 have been amended. Claims 19-21 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description.

Regarding Figure 6, the plurality of air outlets 15 are illustrated in detail in Figure 1. Applicant has amended the specification on page 9 to identify the slant line area of Figures 2, 3 and 5-12 as having the plurality of air outlets 15, shown in Figure 1, arranged throughout the slant line areas of these figures. Applicant believes this amending of the specification clarifies the illustration of Figure 6. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Figure 7, this figure illustrates the fourth embodiment described on pages 14 and 15. In the fourth embodiment, only one of ducts 24 and 24A or ducts 25 and 25A is utilized for air flow. Figure 7 illustrates ducts 25 and 25A. If ducts 24 and 24A were added to Figure 7, ducts 25 and 25A would have to be removed since only one of the two pairs is a part of the fourth embodiment. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Figure 11, the above discussion of air outlets 15 and Figure 6 apply here also. As illustrated in Figures 6, 9 and 10, ducts 24A and 25A extend from the A/C unit,

through the A pillars 26 and into air passage 12. Thus, in Figure 11, duct 24A is hidden by dashboard 18 and duct 25A is hidden by dashboard 18 and A pillar 26. Applicant believes the illustration of Figures 6, 9 and 10 in conjunction with Figure 11 adequately illustrates the inventive concept of the present invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "air outlets 15" (page 11, line 20) needs to be changed to air outlets --15A--. Applicant believes "air outlets 15" on page 11, line 20 is correct. The paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 11 discusses Figure 4 and a ceiling air outlet 15A. Beginning on line 17 of page 20, the specification refers back to the first embodiment of the present invention, the air passage 12 and the air outlets 15. Thus, Applicant believes "air outlets 15" on page 11, line 20 is correct.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Speece (U.S. Pat. No. 5,054,378). Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 2 and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claim 5, which depends from Claim 1, is also believed to

patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2, 4, 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been cancelled with its limitations being added to Claim 1 as discussed above.

New Claim 19 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 4 and is thus believed to be allowable.

New Claim 20 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 13 and is thus believed to be allowable.

New Claim 21 is the same as Claim 14, but dependent on Claim 10.

Claims 15-18 are allowed.

REJOINDER

Applicant respectfully requests the rejoinder of Claims 6-12. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 25, 2005

By: 
Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg